

10/2/81

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1981BUENOS07138

Page: 1

Channel: n/a

Q100

<<<<.>>>>

PAGE 01 BUENOS 07138 021251Z
ACTION ARA-16

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 INR-10 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 HA-06 OCS-06
CA-01 /040 W

-----374311 021940Z /52-44

R 021117Z OCT 81
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1134

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ☐ In Part ☒ In Full

☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 7138

EO 12065: RDS-4 10/1/2001 (FRIEDMAN, T.B.) OR-P
TAGS: SHUM AR
SUBJECT: THE BENCHOAM CASE

1. - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. THE OFFICER IN CHARGE OF THE CASE OF DEBORAH BENCHOAM FOR THE ARGENTINE ARMY ADVISED THE EMBASSY SEPTEMBER 30 THAT HER CASE IS PRESENTLY BEFORE THE HIGH COMMAND OF THE ARGENTINE ARMY. HE SAID THAT THERE ARE THREE PROBABLE OUTCOMES OF THE REVIEW OF BENCHOAM'S STATUS: (A) RELEASE UNDER HOUSE ARREST; (B) RELEASE UNDER SUPERVISED LIBERTY; AND, (C) OPTION TO TRAVEL TO THE UNITED STATES. HE WAS CERTAIN THAT THE FINAL CHOICE WOULD BE ONE OF THESE. THE OFFICER STATED THAT HE EXPECTED THE CASE TO BE RESOLVED QUICKLY, THOUGH HE DECLINED TO GIVE A FIRM DATE.

3. COMMENT: IT APPEARS THAT UNLESS THERE IS AN UNEXPECTED SETBACK, BENCHOAM WILL BE RELEASED FROM PRISON. EITHER OF THE FIRST TWO ALTERNATIVES WOULD MEAN THAT SHE WOULD REMAIN IN ARGENTINA AND UNDER PEN, WHICH THE ARMY MAY PREFER TO OPTION AT THIS TIME. IN ANY CASE, THE THREE ALTERNATIVES NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION REPRESENT VERY POSITIVE EVOLUTION IN HER SITUATION.

PAGE 02 BUENOS 07138 021251Z

4. OUR ARMY CONTACTS HAVE REPEATEDLY EMPHASIZED TO US HOW DIFFICULT IT IS FOR THEM TO TAKE FAVORABLE ACTION

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 1

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1981BUENOS07138

1981 07 13 00 00

Page: 2
Channel: n/a

OF ANY KIND ON BENCHOAM. THEY CLAIM THAT SHE IS A
POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS REBEL, AN ASSERTION THEY BASE ON
HER BEHAVIOR WHILE IN PRISON AND RECENT INTERVIEWS WITH
HER. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE ARGENTINE FOREIGN OFFICE
HAS MADE THE ARMY AWARE OF BOTH THE RISING INTEREST IN
HER CASE ABROAD AND OF HOW HARD IT IS TO EXPLAIN THE CON-
TINUED DETENTION WITHOUT CHARGES OR TRIAL OF A GIRL WHO
IS NOW TWENTY AND WAS SIXTEEN WHEN SHE WAS ARRESTED.
MOST IMPORTANTLY, THE ARMY LEADERSHIP, ANXIOUS TO MEND
FENCES WITH THE UNITED STATES AND NOW ALERT TO THE
TROUBLESOME POTENTIAL OF THE BENCHOAM CASE, APPEARS TO
WANT TO TRY TO NEUTRALIZE IT AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.
SHLAUDEMAN

[REDACTED]
N VVZCZ

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 2